

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to be as follows.

1. (currently amended) A method for encoding and decoding a video sequence in which a keyframe is used to bi-directionally predict frames in the sequence, the method comprising:
 - coding said keyframe independently of other frames in the sequence; and
 - predicting a prior unidirectional predicted frame occurring before said keyframe using data from said keyframe and not from any other keyframe, directly or indirectly; and
 - predicting a subsequent unidirectional predicted frame occurring after the ~~unidirectional predicted~~ keyframe using the data from said keyframe and not from any other keyframe, directly or indirectly.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the keyframe is selected from a middle of a group of pictures to be encoded.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the method further comprises:
 - predicting in series all prior frames within the group of pictures that occur before the keyframe using data from the keyframe and not from any other keyframe.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the method further comprises:
 - predicting in series all subsequent frames within the group of pictures that occur after the keyframe using data from the keyframe and not from any other keyframe.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one prior intervening frame occurs between the keyframe and the prior frame, and wherein the method further comprises:

bi-directionally predicting the prior intervening frame using the data from the keyframe and data from the prior frame, without using data derived from any other keyframe.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein at least one subsequent intervening frame occurs between the keyframe and the subsequent frame, and wherein the method further comprises:

bi-directionally predicting the subsequent intervening frame using the data from the keyframe and data from the subsequent frame, without using data derived from any other keyframe.

Claims 7-9. (canceled)

10. (new) A method for encoding and decoding a video sequence in which a keyframe is used to bi-directionally predict frames in the sequence, the method comprising:

coding said keyframe independently of other frames in the sequence; and
predicting at least three prior unidirectional predicted frames occurring before said keyframe using data from said keyframe and not from any other keyframe, directly or indirectly; and

predicting a plurality of subsequent unidirectional predicted frames occurring after said keyframe using the data from said keyframe and not from any other keyframe, directly or indirectly.

11. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the plurality of subsequent unidirectional predicted frames comprises at least three frames.

12. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein a group of pictures consists of said keyframe and said prior and subsequent unidirectional predicted frames.